

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 IO-04

/049 W

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R 020319Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6724
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ESTC KN KS JA
SUBJECT: RESTRAINTS ON SALES TO NORTH KOREA

REF: TOKYO 13957

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT NOW IS APPROPRIATE TIME TO RELAX RESTRAINTS ON SALES TO NORTH KOREA BY US FIRMS, INCLUDING JOINT VENTURE MANUFACTURERS IN JAPAN.

2. IN KEEPING WITH DETENTE DIPLOMACY WE HAVE ENCOURAGED ROKG IN ITS EFFORTS AT OPENINGS TO EAST. WE HAVE URGED FRIENDS OF SEOUL NOT TO MOVE TOWARD PYONGYANG UNTIL FRIENDS OF PYONGYANG MAKE RECIPROCAL MOVES TOWARD SEOUL. HOWEVER, NO COMMUNIST NATIONS HAVE YET ENGAGED IN DIRECT TRADE WITH SEOUL. AS EXAMPY FOR OTHERS, WE HAVE FOLLOWED POLICY OF NOT MOVING FASTER IN OUR OWN CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA THAN THE ROK ITSELF IS ABLE TO MOVE IN ITS DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH. OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROK WOULD BE ALTERED IF WE WERE TO DEPART FROM THIS POLICY AND WE SEE NO REASON TO DO SO AT THIS TIME.

3. ALTHOUGH THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ARGUMENT MAY BE ATTRACTIVE IN CASE CITED REFTEL WE WOULD NOTE

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NORTH KOREAN'S INTEREST IS NOT PURELY OR EVEN

PRIMARILY COMMERCIAL. NORTH COULD BE EXPECTED TO
MAKE EXAGGERATED POLITICAL INTERPRETATION ON
RELAXATION OF TRADE RESTRAINTS, VIEWING OUR MOVE AS
A SIGN OF WEAKNESS AND PUBLICLY EXPLOITING IT AS
EVIDENCE OF US ABANDONMENT OF THE ROKG.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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